

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated August 21, 2003, claim 3 is amended, and claims 4-20 are added; as a result, claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kapustka et al. ("Cosine Communications Moves VPNs 'Into the Cloud' with the Leading IP Service Delivery Platform", "Kapustka").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant is unable to find in the cited portions of Kapustka, among other things, configuring the processor elements from the system virtual router, as recited or incorporated into the claims. Instead, the cited portions state that Service Providers are able to integrate the management and maintenance of new services. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 2.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,695).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant is unable to find in the cited portions of Huang, wherein the object manager communicates with objects through the distributed management layer, the object manager operable to configure the objects into virtual private networks and virtual routers by creating and deleting objects, as presently recited in claim 3. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 3.

New Claims

Claims 4-20 are new. Applicant requests entry of the new claims for examination.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6909 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

Feb. 23, 2004

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23 day of February, 2004.

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